

**NEW HAMPSHIRE EXECUTIVE BRANCH  
ETHICS COMMITTEE  
*and*  
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE**

**JOINT MEETING**

**LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ROOM 308**

**February 5, 2008  
12:00 PM**

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Meeting called to order by Legislative Ethics Committee Chair Russell Hilliard.

**Present:** Dale Kuehne, John Blair, Deborah Schachter, Karol LaCroix and Patricia Quigley of the Executive Branch Ethics Committee; Russell F. Hilliard, Janet G. Wall, Peter H. Burling, Eric Anderson and Martin L. Gross of the Legislative Ethics Committee; Senate Counsel Jeff Meyers.

**Absent:** David Nixon of the Executive Branch Ethics Committee, one vacant position on the Executive Branch Ethics Committee, Deputy Attorney General Bud Fitch. Sheila Roberge and Kimon Zachos of the Legislative Ethics Committee.

**Also Present:** Associate Attorney General M. Kristin Spath, Senior Researcher Richard Lambert of Legislative Services.

- The members of the committees discussed (1) RSA 15-B regarding the reporting requirements for gifts to state employees; (2) the requirement the Executive Branch Ethics Committee members cannot endorse or contribute to a political candidate's campaign and ways to revise that requirement. Inconsistency with the appointment qualifications was also discussed; (3) Senate Bill 99-FN and the addition of "services"; (4) pending legislation regarding revision of Ethics Committee statute; and (5) pending legislation regarding the penalty for breach of confidentiality of proceedings.
- The members of the committees discussed the importance of consistency of their opinions. Mr. Kuehne stated that the committee's longest discussions have been regarding conflict of interest and recusal issues, to which all members agreed.
- Mr. Gross has observed that, in its advisory opinions, the Executive Branch Ethics Committee primarily refers to statutes to guide them. Ms. Spath stated that most executive departments do not have an ethics code.

- The committees discussed working with the judicial ethics committee to distribute a joint publication on ethics. Legislative ethics committee members discussed the difficulty of coming to an agreement on the publication and guidelines because the guidelines need to be approved by the legislature. Mr. Burling suggested that spring to late summer might be a good time to distribute a publication regarding gifts since ethics regarding gifts is applicable to both the executive branch and the legislative branch. The Executive Branch Ethics Committee has conducted ethics seminars to some agencies that have been well received. Mr. Kuehne suggested a day or ½ day conference regarding ethics for employees from all branches of New Hampshire government as well as other states.
- The meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

*Kara-Lee Bean*

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Recording Secretary